

Message Text

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12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: CU/ARTS: U.S. PIANIST JAMES TOCCO

1. U.S. PIANIST JAMES TOCCO GAVE A SERIES OF FIVE RECITALS, ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS, IN VISEU, AVEIRO, OPORTO, PORTALEGRE AND LISBON FOR A TOTAL OF 825 PERSONS BETWEEN APRIL 19-23 IN CO-SPONSORSHIP WITH THE EMBASSY, PIANIST-IMPRESARIOS SEQUEIRA COSTA AND TANIA ACHOT AND THE CITY COUNCILS OF VISEU, AVEIRO AND PORTALEGRE, THE JUVENTUDE MUSICAL OF OPORTO AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LISBON. ON APRIL 23, TOCCO, WHO WAS INTERESTED IN MAKING CONTACTS WITH NEW CO-SPONSORS FOR HIS POSSIBLE RETURN TO PORTUGAL IN 1977, MET WITH MUSIC PROGRAMMERS AT THE MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY AND THE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION, LISBON MUSIC CRITICS AS WELL AS PIANIST-MUSIC MANAGER TANIA ACHOT AT A LUNCHEON OFFERED BY THE CAO AT A LOCAL LITERARY CLUB.

2. BOTH DIARIO DE NOTICIAS (DN) AND SECULO GAVE HIGH PRAISE TO TOCCO'S PERFORMANCE. DN MUSIC CRITIC ARNESTO NUNES WROTE (4/24): "THE PROGRAM SELECTIONS, EXECUTION AND INTERPRETATION WERE OF EXCELLENT MUSICAL QUALITY. JAMES TOCCO WAS GREATLY APPLAUDED AND PLAYED TWO ENCORES IN WHICH HE DEMONSTRATED NEW PROFF OF HIS FINE CAPACITY AND ART." SECULO MUSIC CRITIC HUMBERTO D'AVILA SAID (4/24): "THE HIGH POINT OF THE RECITAL WAS HIS EXECUTION OF BEETHOVEN'S SONATA NO. 3 IN D MAJOR, OPUS 2 WHICH
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WAS OUTSTANDING IN CLARITY, ARTICULATION AND VERVE.

HIS TREATMENT OF THE WORK BY U.S. COMPOSER JOHN DOWNEY
DEMONSTRATED JAMES TOCCO'S SERIOUSNESS AS AN ARTIST THO
IS NOT TRYING TO BE JUST ANOTHER VIRTUOSO AMONG THE MANY.
THE PIANIST ACCEPTED THE SPECTACULAR CHALLENGE IN THE (DOWNEY)
COMPOSITION, TEMPERED IT WITH INTELLIGENCE AND INTERPRETED
IT IN GOOD TASTE."
CARLUCCI

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